

GREEN FANCY

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SYNOPSIS.

CHAPTER I.—Thomas K. Barnes, wealthy New Yorker, on a walking trip through New England, is caught in a storm miles from his destination. At a roadside point he meets a girl in the same plight. While they discuss the situation an automobile, sent to meet the girl, arrives and Barnes is given a lift to Hart's tavern, while the girl is taken on to her destination, which she tells Barnes is a place called Green Fancy.

CHAPTER II.—At the tavern Barnes falls in with a stranded troupe of "barnstorming" actors, headed by London Rushcroft, and becomes interested in them.

CHAPTER III.—As the storm grows, Barnes finds himself worrying over the safety of the girl, traveling over the mountain roads at what he considers dangerous speed. He learns that Green Fancy is something of a house of mystery. Two mounted men leave the tavern in a manner which arouses Barnes' curiosity.

CHAPTER IV.—He meets "Miss Thankersley," leading lady of the stranded theatrical troupe, who is acting as chambermaid. That night he is aroused by the bringing of a dying man to the tavern, one of the two who had ridden away a short time before. They tell of finding the dead body of the other man. Both had been shot.

CHAPTER V.—The wounded man, registered at the tavern as Andrew Paul, dies, and Barnes is informed he must not leave until after the inquest. O'Dowd and De Soto, guests at Green Fancy, visit the tavern, apparently much mystified over the affair.

CHAPTER VI.—Barnes advances Rushcroft money sufficient to release five company from its embarrassing position, thereby becoming its official backer. He visits Green Fancy, and in the grounds meets his acquaintance of the night before, finding her a girl of surprising beauty.

CHAPTER VII.

Spun-Gold Hair, Blue Eyes and Various Encounters.

She was quite unaware of his presence, and yet he was directly in her path, though some distance away. Her head was bent; her mien was thoughtful, her stride slow and aimless.

She was slender, graceful and evidently quite tall, although she seemed a pigmy among the towering giants



Suddenly She Stopped and Looked Up.

that attended her stroll. Her hands were thrust deep into the pocket of a white duck skirt. A glance revealed white shoes and trim ankles in blue. She wore no hat. Her hair was like spun gold, thick, wavy and shimmering in the subdued light.

Suddenly she stopped and looked up. He had a full view of her face as she

gazed about as if startled by some unexpected, even alarming sound. For a second or two he held his breath, stunned by the amazing loveliness that was revealed to him. Then she discovered him standing there.

In a flash he realized that he was face to face with the stranger of the day before. He took two or three impulsive steps forward, his hand going to his hat—and then halted. Evidently his senses had deceived him. There was no smile in her eyes—and yet he could have sworn that it was there an instant before. Instead there was a level stare.

"I am sorry if I startled—" he began.

The figure of a man appeared as if discharged bodily from some magic tree-trunk, and stood directly in his path—a tall, rugged man in overalls was he, who held a spade in his hand and eyed him inimically. Without another glance in his direction the first and more pleasing vision turned on her heel and continued her stroll, snatching off to the right, her fair head once more bent in study, her back eloquently indifferent to the gaze that followed her.

We have quite an enchanting house party, Mr. Barnes, if you consider no more than the feminine side of it. By way, have you heard when the coroner is to hold his inquest?"

"Nothing definite. He may wait a week," said Barnes.

"I suppose you'll stick around until it's over," ventured O'Dowd. Barnes thought he detected a slight harshness in his voice.

"I have quite made up my mind to stay until the mystery is entirely cleared up," he said. "The case is so interesting that I don't want to miss a shred of it."

"I don't blame you," said O'Dowd heartily. "I'd like nothing better myself than to mix up in it. The next time you plan to pay us a visit, telephone in advance. I may be able to persuade my host that you're a decent, law-abiding, educated gentleman, and he'll consent to receive you at Green Fancy. Good day to you," and he shook hands with the departing trespasser.

"Takin' a walk?" was the landlord's greeting as Barnes mounted the tavern steps at dusk.

"Going over the grounds of last night's affair," responded Barnes, pausing.

As he entered the door he was acutely aware of an intense stare leveled at him from behind by the landlord of Hart's Tavern. Half way up the stairway he stopped short and with difficulty repressed the exclamation that rose to his lips.

He had recalled a significant incident of the night before. Almost immediately after the departure of Roon and Paul from the Tavern Putnam Jones had made his way to the telephone behind the desk and had called a number in a loud, brisk voice, but the subsequent conversation was carried on in subdued tones, attended by hasty and occasional furtive glances in the direction of the taproom.

Upon reaching his room Barnes permitted the suppressed emotion to escape his lips in the shape of a soft whistle, which if it could have been translated into words would have said:

"By Gad, why haven't I thought of it before? He sent out the warning that Roon and Paul were on the way! And I'd like to bet my last dollar that someone at Green Fancy had the other end of the wire."

Mr. Rushcroft was giving Hamlet's address to the players, in the taproom when Barnes came downstairs at nine o'clock.

A small, dark man who sat alone at a table in the corner caught Barnes' eye and smiled almost morosely. He was undoubtedly a stranger; his action was meant to convey to Barnes the information that he too was from a distant and sophisticated community and that a bond of sympathy existed between them.

Putnam Jones spoke suddenly at Barnes' shoulder. He started involuntarily. The man was beginning to get on his nerves. He seemed to be dogging his footsteps with ceaseless persistence.

"That feller over there in the corner," said Jones softly, "is a book agent from your town. He sold me a set of Dickens when he was here last time, about six weeks ago. A year's subscription to two magazines thrown in. By gosh, these book agents are slick ones."

"He's a shrewd-looking chap," commented Barnes.

"Says he won't be satisfied till he's made this section of the country the most cultured, refined spot in the United States," said Jones dolefully. "Excuse me. There goes the telephone. Maybe its news from the sheriff."

With the spasmodic tinkling of the telephone bell the book agent arose and made his way to the little office. Barnes glanced over his shoulder a moment later and saw him studying the register. The poise of his sleek head, however, suggested a listening attitude. Putnam Jones, not four feet away, was speaking into the telephone receiver. As the receiver was restored to its hook Barnes turned again. Jones and the book agent were examining the register, their heads almost meeting from opposite sides of the desk.

The latter straightened up, stretched his arms, yawned, and announced in a loud tone that he guessed he'd stop out and get a bit of fresh air before turning in.

"Any news?" inquired Barnes, approaching the desk after the door had closed behind the book agent.

"It wasn't the sheriff," replied Jones shortly, and immediately resumed his interrupted discourse on books and book agents. Ten minutes elapsed before the landlord's garrulity was checked by the sound of an automobile coming to a stop in front of the house. Barnes turned expectantly toward the door. Almost immediately the car started again, with a loud shifting of gears, and a moment later the door opened to admit, not a fresh arrival but the little book agent.

"Party trying to make Hornville to-night," he announced casually. "Well, good night. See you in the morning."

Barnes was not in a position to doubt the fellow's word, for the car unmistakably had gone on toward Hornville. He waited a few minutes after the man disappeared up the narrow stairway, and then proceeded to test his powers of divination. He was as sure as he could be sure of anything that had not actually come to pass that in a short time the automobile would again pass the tavern, but this time from the direction of Hornville.

Lighting a cigarette he strolled outside. He had barely time to take a position at the darkened end of the porch before the sounds of an ap-

SPLIT RUSSIA KOLCHAK'S IDEA

Head of Omsk Government Promises Home Rule to the Various States.

ASSEMBLY MUST O. K. PLAN

Foreign Minister Explains Government's Policy of Decentralization—Protection of Rights of Minorities Planned.

Paris, July 28.—Radical decentralization in the reconstruction of Russia is the settled policy of Admiral Kolchak, head of the all-Russian government at Omsk, according to Sergius Sazonoff, foreign minister of the Omsk government.

A detailed explanation of this policy and a general outline of the political plans of the Kolchak government were given to the Associated Press by M. Sazonoff, who recently returned from London, where he conferred with British officials.

The statement, the Omsk foreign minister said, was made because Admiral Kolchak's reply to the allies in which he promised autonomy to various states that have broken away from old Russia has caused much discussion. He said he considered it desirable to give his government's attitude toward the various nationalities and sections seeking autonomy.

Names Real Foundations.

The local government should be the real foundation of the political structure, he said, and the central government will exercise only functions of a general character. He expressed the belief that the future held more for great political bodies than for the smaller ones, and that nationalities now animated with centrifugal tendencies will certainly appreciate the benefits of being allied with the big states with all their promises of guardianship and possibilities of development.

Laws regulating the statutes of nationalities, Minister Sazonoff said, necessarily will be incorporated in the constitution to be framed for Russia by the constituent assembly if Admiral Kolchak succeeds in reaching Moscow.

Consequently, he explained, Admiral Kolchak's regulations or decisions can not be considered as final until approved by the assembly. However, he added, Admiral Kolchak contemplates radical decentralization in reconstructing Russia, which was hopelessly centralized under the old regime.

Protect All Rights.

It is the Omsk government's intention, M. Sazonoff said, to give the different people full opportunity to construct their lives according to their own customs and traditions and cultivate their languages and religions.

Protection of the rights of minorities throughout all Russia will be an important feature of the all-Russian government's policy.

"DRY" WAVE BOOSTS BERRIES

Chicago Packers Buy Up the Eastern Crop for Sundaes and Soft Drinks.

Philadelphia, July 28.—Prohibition indirectly produced an extraordinary condition in the strawberry market this year. Prices went higher than ever before because a Chicago packing house opened what was said to be the largest fruit preserving plant in the world in the heart of the strawberry district of Delaware and the eastern shore of Maryland and bought the product of great berry producing fields virtually without regard to cost, to meet the tremendous demand for ice cream and soft drinks produced by the "dry" period.

Strawberries that normally sold for from 5 to 10 cents a quart were snapped up at from 30 to 37 cents. The price to the consumer never went below 30 cents this season. Strawberry sirup for flavoring soda water formerly sold at 65 cents a gallon is now quoted at \$3.50 a gallon.

Farmers are elated. Many of them made an average of \$1,000 an acre on their strawberry crop, and they are looking forward to big profits next year. The packers, when the strawberry season was over, sent their employees to other work and closed the factory.

proaching machine came to his ears. A second or two later the lights swung around the bend in the road a quarter of a mile above Hart's Tavern, and down came the car at a high rate of speed. It dashed past the tavern with a great roar and rattle and shot off into the darkness beyond. As it rushed through the dim circle of light in front of the tavern Barnes succeeded in obtaining a brief but convincing view of the car. That glance was enough, however. He would have been willing to go before a jury and swear that it was the same car that had deposited him at Hart's Tavern the day before.

Having guessed correctly in the one instance he allowed himself another and even bolder guess—the little book agent had either received a message from or delivered one to the occupant or driver of the car from Green Fancy.

(Continued next week.)

WHITLOCK MAY BE SUCCESSOR TO PAGE

AMBASSADOR TO ITALY RETURNS AND HAS CONFERENCES WITH THE PRESIDENT.

JUSSERANDS ALSO ARE BACK

Rumor That the Veteran and Popular Representative of France in Washington Intends to Resign His Position—Capital Hopes It Is False.

By EDWARD S. CLARK.

Washington.—The ambassadors are returning to town. This sounds like the beginning of an old nursery rhyme, but while there is considerable "hark, hark," the substance of the rest of the old rhyme is not in evidence.

Thomas Nelson Page, ambassador of the United States to Italy, arrived here recently. He has had many close talks with the president concerning the situation in the land from which he has just come. Despite troubles over Fiume questions, Mr. Page is said to have declared that Italy likes the United States above all other nations.

Rumor has it at this writing that Brand Whitlock, minister of the United States to Belgium, will be appointed to succeed Mr. Page as ambassador to Italy. His Belgian career is too well known to need comment. Brand Whitlock, by the way, used to be a reporter on a Chicago morning paper, and he was a good one, too. He did everything from night police to politics. After having made good in these fields he went to Toledo, where he was elected mayor and where he wrote two or three successful books.

The French ambassador, Jules J. Jusserand, with Mme. Jusserand, has just returned to the United States. The ambassador and his wife went to France with the president and Mrs. Wilson. It is the custom for the ambassador of a country to accompany the ruler or the president of the company to which he is accredited when that ruler or president pays a visit to the land which the ambassador represents.

M. Jusserand May Resign.

There has been a rumor that it is the intention of Ambassador Jusserand to resign his position after nearly 17 years of consecutive work in this country and to return to his native land. All of Washington hopes that there is no truth in this reported intention. Jusserand is the most popular ambassador ever to have served in Washington.

Several officers of the United States army and several civilian government officials were called to the French embassy a day or two ago to be presented with the insignia of one or the other of the several decorations of the Legion of Honor of France. The ceremony was an impressive one and it was followed later in the day by a reception which was attended by the president and the vice president of the United States, and by scores of the ranking officials of the armed services and of the government departments.

In a way Ambassador Jusserand might be called an American, for his love for this country has been marked from his early youth. He has made a study of its institutions and he has made many addresses and has written several books on American men and affairs.

Never Lost Courage and Faith.

During the days of the war I was an occasional caller at the French embassy. In those dark hours when the Germans were approaching Paris the high courage of Ambassador Jusserand never failed, and neither was there failure of his implicit faith that all would be well in the end, though the end might be far distant. The entrance of the United States into the war was hailed by this ambassador of France as being eternally fitting. He had felt from the first that as French troops once had come to America in the cause of liberty, American troops one day would go to France in behalf of the same holy cause.

Prior to the recent return of Ambassador and Mme. Jusserand to this country they went to the camps of the American army of occupation in Germany. There the ambassador saw the fulfillment of his hopes. He looked at the great fortress of Coblenz and over it he saw floating the Stars and Stripes. Quickly he turned to his wife and said: "Oh say, can you see?"

No one in Washington knows definitely just when the empty embassies of the countries with which the United States has been at war again will claim occupants. The German embassy on Massachusetts avenue has been barred and closed ever since Von Bernstorff of despised memory left this town. He had intrigued not only in behalf of his own country but against the welfare of the land which was his host. He had violated every canon of hospitality.

Rumor has connected the names of several prominent German officials with the appointment to office in this country in the day when such appointments will be proper. It is certain that the state department officials will carefully study the history of the appointee before declaration will be made that he is acceptable.

The Austrian embassy is still vacant. The man who comes will not be of the type of Dumba, although perhaps the latter was more weak than wicked.

SPECIAL HONOR FOR GENERAL PERSHING

ITS NATURE UNDECIDED AND A FLURRY OF POLITICS RISES IN THE HOUSE.

"THANKS OF CONGRESS" SURE

Commander-in-Chief of Expeditionary Forces and Other Generals Will Receive This Distinction, Which Carries Certain Privileges With It.

By EDWARD S. CLARK.

Washington.—It is the apparent intention of congress to honor Gen. John J. Pershing in a particularly personal way when he shall arrive in this country. At this writing it is undecided as to just what form the honoring ceremony shall take, but in all probability the two houses of congress will meet in joint session in the representatives' chamber and invite General Pershing to be the guest of the combined bodies.

There was a flurry of politics in the first proposal to honor General Pershing by means of the joint session which he was to be invited to attend. The Republicans are in the majority in both branches, but it was a Democrat who made the first proposal. It was his endeavor to secure recognition from the speaker in order to introduce a resolution to carry out its plan, but the required recognition was not forthcoming because the speaker desired to refer the matter to the house committee on rules in order to have the matter given consideration. Now it is being charged that politics entered into the matter because of the desire of each party to be first to propose the honoring of the man who commanded the American expeditionary forces.

It is difficult to bring any matter of high national import before congress with entire freedom from the charge of somebody or other that an attempt is being made to secure political advantage. Of course there are always denials from both Democrats and Republicans that such is the intention.

Will Receive Thanks of Congress.

It is probable that the congress of the United States will vote its thanks to John J. Pershing, and to some other generals of the American expeditionary forces, for their services to the country in the great war. It is probable also that Rear Admiral William S. Sims, commander of the American naval forces abroad during the war, and one or two other high officers of the naval service likewise will be honored with the thanks of congress.

There are five men, all of them connected either with the army or the navy forces of the United States, living today who have been honored in the way that it is the unquestioned intention to honor Pershing, Sims and the others. To receive the thanks of congress is accounted the highest honor which any official of the American government can receive. The recipient enjoys certain privileges thereafter, and occasionally coupled with the vote of thanks there are special provisions for additional privileges.

The living men who already have been given the thanks of congress are Maj. Gen. George W. Goethals, the great administrator of the work of building the Panama canal; Maj. Gen. William L. Sibert, who built the Gatun dam, locks and spillway; Maj. Gen. William C. Gorgas, the great sanitary expert who changed the Panama canal zone from a pest spot into the healthiest place on earth; Maj. Gen. Harry F. Hodges, who designed the delicate and intricate mechanism which makes it possible to open and close the huge gates at the touch of a button; and Rear Admiral Harry H. Rousseau, U. S. navy, who had charge of the building of the naval terminal facilities and docks at both ends of the canal.

After the civil war congress gave its thanks to several officers in the great conflict. The last army officer of the civil war group thus to be honored died not many years ago, Gen. O. O. Howard. Admiral Dewey also was the recipient of the thanks of congress for his victory at Manila bay. To died recently.

Privilege Goes With It.

When any man is given the thanks of congress it is his privilege thereafter to enter at any time upon either floor of congress during the sessions. This is the privilege accorded no other man as a right, except, of course, members and senators themselves.

Men to whom congress has given its thanks never take advantage of the privilege to enter on to the floor of congress except on occasions of national moment. None of them ever goes in during the ordinary sessions, for apparently it is their belief that their motives might be misconstrued. When there is an occasion such as that of the delivery of an address by the president of the United States to the representatives and senators such men as have received the thanks of congress, and happen to be in Washington, almost invariably are to be seen on the floor.

In times past some of the recipients of the honor have appeared at the doors of congress in civilian dress and not being recognized by the doorkeepers, and not having their "Thanks of Congress credentials" with them, have been held up by the doorkeepers. On several occasions it has been necessary for members of the senate or the house to come forward to vouch for the fact that the applicant for admission was entitled thereto.